

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 NEA-10 EB-11

INT-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 /162 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7433

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, BU

SUBJECT: ZH VKOV SETS T*ENDS*IN NEW YEAR'S COMMENTS TO
DIPLOMATIC CORPS

REF: SOFIA 0001 (NOTAL)

1. AT ANNUAL NEW YEAR RECEPTION FOR CHIEFS-OF-MISSION,
ZHIVKOV SHOWED SAME OPTIMISM,CONFIDENCE AND GOOD CHEER AS
DISPLAYED DURING HIS NEW YEARS'S EVE SPEECH TO THE NATION.

2. ZHIVKOV'S COMMENTS FOLLOWED THE VERY FLATTERING AND
OPTIMISTIC REMARKS OF THE DOYEN, SWEDISH AMBASSADOR RIPA,
WHO PRAISED BULGARIA FOR ITS POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SUCH
INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS AS CSCE AND MBFR, AND ZHIVKOV'S OWN
EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF DETENTE. AMBASSADOR ALSO NOTED
BULGARIA'S COMMENDABLE AND CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
STANDARD OF LIVING OF BULGARIAN PEOPLE.

3. ZHIVKOV SAID DETENTE IS ONLY DESIRABLE PATH MANKIND
CAN TAKE AND PRAISED THOSE WHO WORK TO THIS END. AS
FOR BULGARIA, IT WILL CONTINUE TO REGISTER PROGRESS
ALTHOUGH THIS WILL NOT BE EASY TASK. LIKE OTHERS,

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BULGARIA MUST CONSERVE ITS ENERGY AND USE RAW MATERIALS
WISELY. THE 1974 PLAN HAS BEEN SET AND WITH THE

GUIDANCE OF PARTY, BULGARIA SHOULD ACHIEVE ITS GOALS.

4. TURNING AWAY FROM THE OBVIOUS, ZHIVKOV OBSERVED THAT DIPLOMATS LIKE TO SPECULATE AND SO THERE WOULD BE NO DOUBTS ABOUT THE UPCOMING MARCH PARTY CONFERENCE, HE WISHED TO ASSURE THOSE PRESENT THAT NO NEW FIRST SECRETARY WOULD BE ELECTED NOR WOULD THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLITBURO BE CHANGED. IN GOOD HUMOR, HE ADDED, "I AM ON TOP AND PLAN TO STAY HERE".

5. ONLY OTHER HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY WAS WHEN THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR PRODDED ZHIVKOV A BIT ABOUT HIS GENERAL OPTIMISM AND ZHIVKOV REPLIED THAT THE OIL CRISIS WAS NOT HELPING. THE IRAQI RETORTED THERE IS PLENTY OF OIL AND AHIZKOV SAID, YES, AT A PRICE.
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